

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph [42] with the following amended paragraph:

- [42] FIG. 4 depicts a data structure of a folder record that is used to store information in user folder database 270 in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. Each folder record contains a list of annotated WBDs that relate to a certain category for each user 200. In particular, folder record 400 includes a folder ID 410 field, a category 320-420 field, and a list of annotation IDs 430 field. Folder ID 410 contains an integer value that identifies each folder record 400 in user folder database 270. Category 420 contains an ASCII string that describes the category of associated annotated WBDs. And list of annotation IDs 430 contains a linked list of references to records stored in annotation database 280.

Please replace the paragraph [54] with the following amended paragraph:

- [54] FIG. 9 is a flowchart of steps for freezing WBD content in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. To freeze a WBD in general, annotation software 170 first gains access to the content of the WBD (step 905). Since some WBDs are composed of different layers that may behave differently upon browser resizing, annotation software 170 wraps the existing WBD layers into one fix-sized layer (step 910). With all the layers wrapped, the next task is to examine the properties of the WBD elements (step 915). WBD elements, which encompass any content on the WBD (e.g., single word, paragraph, image, buttons implemented in JavaScript), may contain certain properties that cause the element to move during browser resizing. For instance, an element property may require the element to stay fixed to the side-size of the WBD no matter how the browser is sized. Therefore, if a WBD element contains properties that cause that element to become unfrozen ("yes" branch of step 920), then those properties are modified so that the element remains in a fixed position through browser resizing (step 925). Since WBD elements are organized in a tree-like fashion, with the root element at the top and all children below, the next inquiry is whether children elements

exist (step 930). If children elements exists, their properties are similarly examined (step 935) and, if appropriate, modified (step 925), and the process repeats until all elements have been examined ("no" branch of step 930).

Please replace the paragraph [63] with the following amended paragraph:

- [63] After user 200 initiates an annotation event, annotation software 170 appends technical information about the annotation into annotation record 500 (step 1135). In this step, the annotation image is appended to image file 1000 referenced by a pointer to image file 545. Annotation software 170 positions the annotation element so that the location of the drawing marks in image file 1000 corresponds to the location of the drawing marks that user 200 made on the screen.

Please replace the paragraph [65] with the following amended paragraph:

- [65] Annotation software 170 creates a new note record 700 in note database 295 for every text-based note or audio annotation that user 200 creates. For each note record 700, annotation software 170 generates a unique ID number for note ID 710, and adds that ID number to the list of note IDs 555 of the associated annotation record 500. Annotation repository 240 stores the type of note in note type 720, and the text of the note in note text 730. If user 200 associates an audio annotation with the note, the audio annotation is stored in an audio file in streaming audio format (e.g., .wav., .mp3, RealAudio) in note database 295, and its location is stored in a pointer to audio file 740.

Please replace paragraph [81] with the following amended paragraph:

- [81] Annotation software 170 provides user 200 with a margin inside Web browser 160 in which to group thumbnails (i.e., miniaturized images) of annotated WBDs 800. FIG. 15 illustrates a thumbnail margin in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. After user 200 completes annotating a WBD, annotation software 170 automatically generates a thumbnail 1515 of the newly annotated WBD 800 and displays

it in margin 1510. User 200 may assign each thumbnail 1515 a user-defined category 1520, which is listed along the left border of margin 1510. In this embodiment, annotation repository 240 generates each thumbnail using standard 2D image processing techniques, and stores each file containing the thumbnail image into annotation database 280, along with the file location in a_pointer to thumbnail file 548 of the associated annotation record 500. Annotation repository 240 stores the user-defined category in category 420 of the associated folder record 400, making sure the associated annotation record 500 is linked to the list of annotation IDs 430.

Please replace paragraph [84] with the following amended paragraph:

[84] According to one embodiment, annotation software 170 implements viewing and searching of annotated WBDs 800 by comparing user 200's search parameters 1610, which user 200 enters through search interface 1600 of Web browser 160, with the associated fields of the relevant records in annotation repository 240. For example, if user 200 wants to view all annotated WBDs 800 assigned a specific category 1520, annotation software 170 searches the category 420 field of folder record 400 in user folder database 270 for matches. If category 420 matches the search criteria, annotation software 170 displays thumbnails 1515 of the matched annotated WBDs 800 by following the pointer to thumbnail files 548 of the annotation records 500 linked to the associated list of annotation IDs 430. Similarly, if user 200 wants to view all annotated WBD's 800 containing a specific ink-mark 810 (e.g., an asterisk or star), annotation software 170 receives the ink-mark 810 from user 200 through search interface 1600, stores its graphical attributes in a temporary stroke record 6900-600 in temporary storage device 140, and searches the stroke records 600 in stroke database 290 for matches. If stroke records 600 match the search criteria, annotation software 170 again displays thumbnails 1515 of the matched annotated WBDs 800 in Web browser 160.